

# THE ENERGY EAST PROJECT AND TRANS CANADA

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Knowing that the family of Paul Desmarais is the largest shareholder of *Total*, as is indicated by information on their web site;

Considering also that *Total* is one of the largest developers of the Alberta tar-sands;

Considering the intentions of Doctor Couillard, the Prime Minister of Quebec, who is proposing to locate a

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<sup>1</sup> Pierre Karl Peladeau, “Le projet Énergie Est de Trans Canada,” *Vigile.Quebec*, 1 novembre 2014. [Translated and edited by Christopher Richard Wade Dettling, 2016]

petroleum depot on the Saint Lawrence River, through the exportation gateway of *Cacouna*, via the *Trans Canada Energy East* pipeline; and

Considering, lastly, the strategic interest of the Quebec government in the development of electrical transportation, something which is diametrically opposed to the economic interests of Big Oil;

We pose the following question: Who will be the biggest winners of Doctor Couillard's political and economic policy?

Since the Americans refuse to let Alberta ship crude oil into the United States via the *Keystone XL* project, which is now in limbo, mainly because of political pressures from the environmentalists, and since in Western Canada the *Northern Gateway* project has also been blocked in British Columbia, we arrive at the following conclusion: The only way to ship oil eastwards

is by pipeline, or by rail transportation which experts say will cost upwards of \$20 dollars for each and every barrel: Only the construction of a pipeline could avert these costs, and thus the money saved would benefit mainly the shareholders of *Total*.

There is absolutely nothing in the *Trans Canada Energy East* project for Quebec, except for environmental risks and possible tragedies like the one in *Lac-Mégantic* ...

From lack of a real political vision, or from selling-out to those economic interests which are radically opposed to the true interests of Quebec, we are now moving even further and further into a fossil fuel economy: Meanwhile we possess in Quebec the most ecological, the most sustainable and environmentally friendly energy known to humankind, namely hydro-electricity.

The Liberal Government of Philippe Couillard has nothing better for Quebecers than this totally asinine project.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *Nota Bene*: The stock market capitalisation of *Total* is more than 100 billion Euros.

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